Derailments of Trains in Bihar

3072. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been three cases of derailments of trains in quick succession in a particular section in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is evidence that these derailments are due to sabotage;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has taken any steps to investigate into these acts of sabotage;

(e) whether any suspects have been apprehended;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the financial loss suffered by the Railways due to these derailments of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There had been three cases of derailment of trains on Mughalsarai-Patna section of Eastern Railways during the years 1996-97, two in the State of Bihar and one in Uttar Pradesh. Details of these derailments are as under:

(1) On 23.4.96, ten coaches of 5622 North East Express derailed between Zamania and Uttar Pradesh

(2) On 19.8.96, twelve coaches of 2302 Poorva Express derailed between Durmaon and Raruna stations of Danapur Division in the State of Bihar.

(3) On 14.11.96 twelve coaches of 3050 Amritsar Howrah Express derailed between Banahi and Bihiya stations of Danapur Division in the State of Bihar.

(c) The above derailments were due to suspected sabotage and the cases are still under investigation with the Police.

(d) to (f). Both the cases of derailments in Bihar have been registered by Government Railway Police/ Buxar and by Government Railway Police/Ara respectively. Final reports on these cases are still awaited.

(g) The financial loss suffered by the Railway due to these three derailments is Rs. 1.43 crores, approximately.

Corruption in Tech & Wireless Planning & Cooord. Wing

3073. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to newsitem captioned 'Telecom money-spinner' appearing in 'The Pioneer' deated August 27,1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any preventive measures have been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has noted and analysed the contents of the news item. The departmental rules and regulations have been followed while deciding various issues.

(c) and (d). The tendering process has been reviewed and made more transparent to instil confidence amongst the tenderers. A calender of tenders has been notified well in advance. The number of vendors and the percentage of quantity of orders proposed to be placed on them are notified at the time of tendering. Recently, the Department has finalised a Vendor Rating System for introduction on experimental basis. All these measures are likely to instil confidence in the tendering system.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.

[Trahslation]

Telephone Connection in Rajasthan

3074. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that applications for telephone connections in respect of number of the people of rural areas falling under the jurisdiction of TDM, Ajmer district of Rajasthan is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the time by which telephone services are likely to be provided in these rural areas where more than 10-15 persons have already deposited forms and requisite fee;

(e) whether the entire old and new tehsil headquarters or major townships of Ajmer district have been connected with STD services; and

(f) if not, the time by which these places are likely to be connected with STD services and the places from which applications in this regard are lying pending?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of pending applications in various telephone exchanges